



FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

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Welcome to Friday Night Facts ! This week all eyes were on Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. And, that is the way it should be. Our fellow citizens in those three states need our thoughts, prayers, money and other resources. We hope that you donate anything extra that you have to the men, women, and children of our sister States to the south. I have no doubt that if we as Hoosiers were in a similar tragic situation that many people from these very states and more would come to our aid. I know that we can count on each of you to spread our Hoosier Hospitality to our southern neighbors. Read below how you can help!

**If you want to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina
Call 1-866-909-4673 or
Go to www.invoad.org**

Volunteer Pilots Receive Grant to Support Hurricane Katrina Medical and Search and Rescue Efforts

(Washington D.C.) The Corporation for National and Community Service today announced a \$134,000 grant supplement to Mercy Medical Airlift to support volunteer pilots to undertake medical and search and rescue missions in states affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Corporation grant will support a projected 200 "ambulatory missions," which include all flights into and out of the disaster region for patients, search and rescue teams, incident command teams, outside agency personnel, state and national level personnel, blood and blood products, and small high-priority cargo. It will also cover the costs of a limited number of flights out of the disaster region for patients requiring medical attention in flight.

Mercy Medical Airlift is a nonprofit organization headquartered in Virginia Beach, VA, with a 30 year record of serving people in situations of compelling human need through the provision of charitable air transportation. It operates the Homeland Security Emergency Air Transportation System (HSEATS) which engages volunteer pilots to undertake medical and search and rescue missions in the affected states. HSEATS is implemented primarily through regional Angel Flight organizations.

The HSEATS program was developed under a 2002 grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The grant was one of 18 Special Volunteer Program Homeland Security Grants awarded by the agency in the wake of the September 11 terror attacks to engage volunteers in public safety, public health and disaster preparedness and response. The three-year grant enabled Mercy Medical Airlift to add some 4,500 pilots nationwide who are prepared to undertake emergency Angel Flight missions.

The volunteer pilots live all over the United States. They are linked with agreements and operational protocols to support all the major volunteer organizations involved in disaster response. Supported by a well-developed communications network, MMA is coordinating its response with National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (NVOAD), State VOADS, FEMA, and public and private state and local emergency response agencies.

The Corporation for National and Community Service provides opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to serve their communities and country through three programs: Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. Together with USA Freedom Corps, the Corporation is working to foster a culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility in America. For more information, visit <http://www.nationalservice.gov>.

INDIANA'S VOLUNTEER CENTERS

According to the Points of Light Foundation, volunteer centers are

“...conveners for the community, catalysts for social action and key local resources for volunteer involvement. They bring people and community needs together through a range of programs and services based upon community needs, demographic area, population size, and other factors.” (*From Points of Light Foundation Website*)

Currently, there are numerous centers throughout the state of Indiana that “connect people with the opportunity to serve, build the capacity for effective local volunteering, promote volunteering, and participate in strategic initiatives that mobilize volunteers” (*Points of Light Foundation Website*).

Depending on their structure, volunteer centers can mobilize the resources of the entire community at a city or county level. Within Indiana, many of the volunteer centers are affiliated with United Ways thereby offering opportunities for collaboration with other non-profit organizations. Some offer training and network opportunities for volunteer coordinators while others help to coordinate communitywide special event volunteer efforts. Most volunteer centers offer a physical space where volunteers can meet with someone about their volunteer interests and be connected with organizations. Some even provide specialized databases via the internet that allow persons to find out various volunteer opportunities based on person's interest.

Why are these organizations important? They can serve to help recruit volunteers for and promote the volunteer efforts of your organization! The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is working to expand the number of these centers throughout the state in order to increase the capacity of faith-based and community organizations within Indiana. This effort is being coordinated by Johanna Amefia-Koffi, VISTA Training Associate. If you would like to be connected with a volunteer center in your community or are interested in creating a center within your community, please contact our office at (317) 234-4234.

Conversations with OFBCI

The September “Conversations with OFBCI” will take place on the following dates, we hope that you will take time to come to one of these meetings and learn more about OFBCI and how we might be able to assist your organization or faith-based institution.

September 14, 2005

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Vincennes University

Vincennes, Indiana

September 14, 2005

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Daviess Community Hospital

Washington, IN

September 15, 2005

C. K. Newsom Community Ctr

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Evansville, IN

September 29, 2005

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

IU of Southeast

New Albany, IN

September 29, 2005

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Lawrenceburg, IN

September 30, 2005

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Community Learning Center

Greenburg, IN